

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and ranking displaying entities having expertise in one or more subjects in health-care fields, the method comprising:
 - querying a database for documents relevant to a subject;
 - calculating a first score for each relevant document;
 - determining entities affiliated with each relevant document, each of the entities having being associated with expertise in one or more subjects in the health-care field and each of the entities being affiliated with one or more documents in a set, at least one of the entities includes including an institution or a person a geographic area affiliated with the set of the one or more documents;
 - calculating a second score for each entity based on the one or more first scores of the relevant documents affiliated with the entity;
 - ~~ranking expertise of the entities based on the respective second scores of the entities; and~~
 - ~~displaying expertise associated with the respective entities to a user;~~
 - ~~displaying expertise associated with the respective entities, the expertise being based on the respective second scores of the entities; and~~
 - ~~displaying a reference to a geographic area, where the entities are with the geographic area.~~
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities to a user.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic areas based on the respective second scores of entities within the each of the plurality of geographic area; and
displaying expertise associated with each of the plurality of geographic areas to the user, based on the respective third scores of the plurality of geographic areas.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining entities includes:

determining an author of a document in the set of documents; and
determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated includes:

examining an address of the determined author.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address is a mailing address.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address is an email address.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising displaying a ranking of expertise of each of the plurality of geographic areas to the user, based on the respective third scores of each of the plurality of geographic areas.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic areas includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic areas includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a type of the document.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first score is based on whether the document is a review.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a ~~number of pages~~ length of the document.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a date of publication of the document.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on an impact score of a journal in which the document was published.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a number of relevant documents.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is at least one of the Medlars databases.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Westlaw database.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Lexis database.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Dialog database.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Medlex database.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Science Citation Index.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Genbank database.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Internet.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is a subset of the Internet.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject in health care field, the system comprising a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory including:

a first code configured to receive a subject in health care field from a user;
a second code configured to query the database for documents relevant to the subject;

a third code configured to calculate a first score for each relevant document;
a fourth code configured to identify entities affiliated with one or more of the relevant documents, at least one of the entities corresponding to an institution or a person a geographic area;

a fifth code configured to calculate a second score for each entity based on the first scores of a plurality of relevant documents associated with the entity; and

a sixth code configured to represent to a user the second score of the entity or a ranking of the entity based on its second score, the second score being indicative of the expertise in the subject associated with the entity.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the server system is coupled to the database via a world wide network of computers.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the server system is coupled to a world wide network of computers, and further comprising a user computer coupled with the server system via the worldwide network of computers.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the first code is configured to receive the subject from the user via the world wide network of computers, and wherein the sixth code is configured to provide to the user the second scores or the ranking of the expertise of the entities via the world wide network of computers.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject ~~in health-care fields~~, the method comprising:

- querying a database for documents relevant to the subject;
- determining a first set of entities associated with the relevant documents;
- calculating a score for each entity in the first set of entities based on the number of relevant documents associated with each entity;
- populating a second database to include each of the entities in the first set of entities and the score associated with each of the entities in the first set of entities;
- receiving a query related to an entity;
- determining a second set of entities associated with the entity related to the query;
- retrieving from the second database the score associated with each entity in the second set of entities;
- representing to a user the scores of the entities in the second set of entities related to a ranking of the entities in the second set of entities based on the scores of the entities in the second set of entities;
- wherein the score of an entity is indicative of the expertise in the subject associated with the entity.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the score for each entity in the first set of entities additionally based on the number of authors associated with each of the documents relevant to each entity.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the score for each entity in the first set of entities is additionally based on the type of document of each of the documents relevant to each entity.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein the entity related to the query is a geographical area.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the entity is selected from a hospital, university, or author.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and ranking displaying entities having expertise in one or more subjects in health care fields, the method comprising:
querying a database for documents relevant to a subject in a health care field;
calculating a first score for each relevant document;
determining entities affiliated with each relevant document, each of the entities having being associated with expertise in one or more subjects in the health care field and each of the entities being affiliated with one or more documents in a set, at least one of the entities includes including an institution, or a person affiliated with the set of the one or more documents, at least one of the entities including a person affiliated with the set of the one or more documents, at least one of the entities including a geographic area affiliated with the set of the one or more documents;

calculating a second score for each entity based on the one or more first scores of the relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and

ranking expertise of the entities based on the respective second scores of the entities or displaying expertise associated with the respective entities to a user.

hierarchically displaying expertise in the subject associated with at least a geographic area, expertise in the subject associated with an institution or institutions located within each geographic area, and expertise in the subject associated with a person or persons associated with each institution, the expertise being determined at least in part based on the second scores of the entities.

40. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

arranging the second set of entities in a hierarchical organization including a first level and a second level, the first level including a plurality of entities, the second level including one or more of groups of entities, each of the entities in the first level being associated with a corresponding group in the second level;

determining a ranking of the entities within each of the one or more groups based on the scores of each the entities in the corresponding group;

calculating a score for each of one or more groups based on the on the scores of the entities in the corresponding group;

determining a ranking of the entities in the first level based on the scores of the groups associated with the corresponding entities in the first level; and

representing to a user a hierarchical ranking of expertise including a ranking of entities in the first level and rankings of entities in the second level.

41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the entities in the first level of the hierarchical organization include cites in a state, and each group in the second level of the hierarchical organization includes institutions in a corresponding city.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the entities in the first level of the hierarchical organization include states in a country, and each group in the second level of the hierarchical organization includes cities in a corresponding state.